

01/02/01

Applicants: Ann Marie Schmidt and David Stern  
U.S. Serial No.: 09/166,649  
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cont'd

thereof in the absence of the compound, thereby determining whether the compound is capable of inhibiting the interaction of the peptide with RAGE or fragment thereof, wherein a reduction in the amount of binding in the presence of the compound indicates that the compound is capable of inhibiting the interaction.--

--18.

(Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is a [polyepetide] polypeptide, a nucleic acid, or an inorganic chemical.--

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-57 were pending in the subject application. Applicants have hereinabove amended claim 1. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found, *inter alia*, at page 7, lines 9-24 in the specification. Applicants have hereinabove amended claim 18 to correct an obvious typographical error. Support for the amendment to claim 18 may be found, *inter alia*, at page 14, line 22 in the specification. Applicants have amended the specification to correct a obvious typographical error. Applicants maintain that the above-mentioned amendments to the claims and specification raise no issue of new matter.

#### Election/Restriction

The Examiner acknowledged applicants' election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-13 and 15-29 in Paper No. 6. The Examiner stated that the traversal is on the ground(s) that it would not be a burden for the Examiner to search Groups I-IV together since such groups do not define distinct inventions, and a search of

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follows. A marked up version of amended claim 11 wherein the deleted material is in brackets and the inserted material is underlined is attached hereto as Exhibit B:

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--11. (2x Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the peptide derivative of step (a) (i) comprises an alkyl derivative. --

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-57 are pending in the subject application. Applicants have hereinabove canceled claims 3, 9, 10, 14, 16, 19, 23, and 30-57 without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a later-filed application. This amendment does not involve any issue of new matter. Therefore, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested such that claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11-13, 15, 17, 18, 20-22 and 24-29 will be pending.

#### Objection to the specifications

The Examiner objected to the specification because of the following alleged informalities: The Examiner stated that the word peptide on page 13, line 3, has not been corrected.

In response, applicants have amended the specification in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion such that page 13, line 3 recites **peptide** and not **peptide**. Applicants contend that this amendment obviates the above objection and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this objection.